Report on Microchemical Methods

By C. L. OGG (Eastern Utilization Research and Development Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 600 E. Mermaid Lane, Philadelphia, Pa. 19118)

A collaborative study was conducted to evaluate the performance of the 2 most commonly used automatic carbon-hydrogen-nitrogen analyzers. These are Hewlett-Packard's F&M Model 185 and Perkin-Elmer's Model 240. The results indicate that both instruments give satisfactory results when certain parameter limits are observed. It is hoped that a follow-up study with the limits of the critical parameters specified will lead to improved accuracy and precision and the adoption of an official procedure.

The Associate Referee on molecular weight carried out the C-H-N analyzer study at the Referee's request. This was done because continued study of the molecular weight method had to be postponed due to repair problems with the molecular weight apparatus.

No work was done on oxygen flask methods for the halogens or sulfur. This work should be reactivated because existing official methods for these elements have been replaced in most laboratories by the oxygen flask method.

The Associate Referee topics of Elemental Analysis and of Group Analysis have become cumbersome because the Associate Referees have shifted from one to the other area as the need arose. In addition, "group" analysis originally meant organic functional groups such as methoxyl. Specifying the actual element or group for which methods are to be studied would seem to be desirable. Therefore, the Referee recommends that these topics be changed to Sulfur and Halogens, respectively.

Recommendations

It is recommended—

(1) That the topics of Elemental Analysis and Group Analysis be changed to the specific elements or groups being studied.

(2) That the topic of C-H-N Analyzer Methods be initiated.

(3) That study on the topic of Molecular Weight be continued.

This report of the General Referee was presented at the 84th Annual Meeting of the AOAC, Oct. 12–15, 1970, at Washington, D.C.

The recommendations of the General Referee were approved by Subcommittee C and were accepted by the Association; detailed recommendations are given in the report of Subcommittee C, *JAOAC* **54**, 392 (1971).

Report on Mycotoxins

By LEONARD STOLOFF (Division of Food Chemistry and Technology, Food and Drug Administration, Washington, D.C. 20204)

The past year has been one of steady progress toward the goal of simple, reliable methods for aflatoxins and other mycotoxins found in a variety of commodities. All methods for aflatoxins, adopted and modified as of the last meeting, have been consolidated and coordinated for inclusion in Chapter 26, *Natural Poisons*, in the 11th edition of *Official Methods of Analysis*. Included as a procedure, **26.057–26.061**, is the first detailed description of the chicken embryo bioassay for aflatoxin B_1 toxicity. The open Associate Refereeship on Multidetection Methods has been assumed by the General Referee, who presently is in the best position to cover this area; a new Associate Refereeship on Mycotoxins in Fruits and Fruit Products has been created and assigned to Julia L. Moor of the FDA San Francisco District.

Aflatoxin M.—Associate Referee Stanley Nesheim (FDA, Washington, D.C.) reports no change in the status of analytical methodology, but an improvement in the proposed confirmation of identity by acetylation of the tertiary hydroxyl has been made by the Associate Referee on Confirmative Methods for Mycotoxins. There has been an improvement in the aflatoxin M supply situation. Improved methods for recovery of high purity aflatoxin M have been